

IN THE ABSTRACT

~~The present invention is concerned with a distributed system. A change in environment information is detected even during execution of assigned processing, and coped with in order to reduce unnecessary processing. It can be avoided that a condition is set with every change in environment information. A way of information notification is determined based on a component used for notification.~~

~~According to the present invention, even when an agent in which a user specified condition for information notification is held is executing processing, environment information indicating an environment of the agent can be acquired. The environment information includes equipment accommodated in a network, a user's situation, and environment information indicating an environment outside the equipment. Information is notified based on the acquired information. Specifically, based on the environment information, information notification may be suspended, an information notification destination or a range of information notification may be changed, a priority given to notified information may be changed, or the contents of a setting or notified information may be changed. Furthermore, a way of information notification is changed in line with the characteristics of an apparatus used to notify a~~

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~~user of information.~~ In a distributed system having a plurality of equipment that are interconnected over transmission medium and that include one or more arithmetic units, any of the plurality of equipment notifies a person to be notified about a function of the any of the equipment in accordance with an adaptive communication method in which the notification method is determined by the following steps. A first step that any of the plurality of equipment obtains environment information of that equipment and another equipment if necessary and a second step that any of the equipment determines the notification method depending on the environment information obtained by the first step and a contents of information concerning the function of any of the equipment.
